

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

Your memorandum of October 9, 1947 on this subject has been received, together with the copy of General Todd's letter of September 25, 1947, and I present our comments and suggestions as requested.

It is probable that a meeting of representatives of agencies concerned in population and manpower studies would serve a useful purpose, and we should like to be represented at such a meeting.

We suggest that, in addition to the agencies mentioned in General Todd's letter, the following agencies should be represented:

Department of Labor (Foreign Labor  
Conditions Staff)  
Department of Agriculture (Bureau  
of Agricultural Economics and  
Office of Foreign Agricultural  
Relations)  
Bureau of the Budget (Division of  
Statistical Standards)

Our present view on the question of creating a central working group is that there may well be some advantage in it, not so much to avoid waste and duplication (which is believed to be less extensive than suggested in General Todd's letter) as to supply basic services such as:

- a) providing central collection and processing of basic statistical data;

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

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- b) standardizing methods of compilation and evaluation of the data; and
- c) producing population and manpower sections of the National Intelligence Surveys and supplying interested agencies with basic demographic materials.

On the other hand it would be unfortunate, in our view, if such a central group should absorb the functions now carried on in the interested agencies to meet their specific and specialized requirements.

We suggest the following agenda:

1. Nature of present agency interests and responsibilities in this field; extent of duplication.
2. Need for a central working group.
3. Possible organization and scope of such a working group, including:

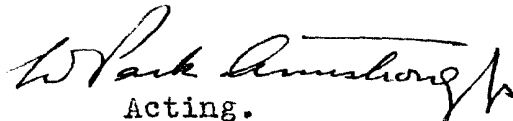
functions and responsibilities, with relation to specialized work in this field in the interested agencies.

Size and composition.

Administrative location and direction.  
(Relative advantages of an intelligence agency as compared to some other agency.)

The above would cover in general item (a) in paragraph 4 of General Todd's letter. Item (b) might better be deferred for later discussion.

Sincerely yours,

  
Acting.